

Report to LICENSING COMMITTEE

Ministerial Working Party on Taxis Update

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr A. Shah – Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

Officer Contact: Deputy Chief Executive – People & Place

Report Author: John Garforth – Trading Standards & Licensing
Manager

Ext. 5026

6 November 2018

Reason for the Report

The reason for this report is to advise Members of the outcome of the Department for Transport Ministerial Working Party review of Taxi and Private Hire Licensing.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the report and feedback any comments on its content.

Ministerial Working Party on Taxis Update

1 Background

- 1.1 In September 2017 the Transport Minister requested that a working party be convened to review the current regulatory regime for taxis and private hire as he did not consider it fit for purpose.
- 1.2 A working party was convened and was chaired by Professor Mohammed Abdel-Haq from the University of Bolton. Other members of the group included trade representatives of trade groups, the Local Government Association, Transport for London, Suzy Lamplugh Trust, two Members of Parliament and the Competition and Markets Authority. Oral and written evidence was also taken.
- 1.3 The Report was published in September 2018 and a response from the Minister is eagerly awaited. A copy of the Report is attached at Appendix 1.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 The working party have made thirty four recommendations in their report. This includes the following key issues:
- An urgent revision of existing legislation is required;
 - There should be national minimum standards for drivers, vehicles and operators;
 - Updated Government guidance should be issued
 - Metro Mayors should emulate the model of licensing in London by combining authorities into one licensing area;
 - Power to cap the numbers of licences to meet local need for taxis and PHVs;
 - Fixed penalty notices to be introduced for minor licensing offences;
 - All licensed vehicles should be fitted with CCTV
 - Mandate the use of a central national database; and
 - Review the evidence for restricting the hours licensed drivers can work similar to bus and lorry drivers.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the report and feedback any comments on its content.

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 N/A

5 Consultation

- 5.1 N/A

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 None

7 Legal Services Comments

- 7.1 The Minister's response to the Report will identify which, if any, of the recommendations are to be progressed. Many of the recommendations in the Report will require legislation to implement them. There will be opportunities to comment on any proposals at that stage.
-

In the meantime, there are a number of recommendations that do not require new legislation. The Council can therefore review its current compliance on these matters.

8. **Co-operative Agenda**

8.1 Not applicable

9 **Human Resources Comments**

9.1 Not applicable

10 **Risk Assessments**

10.1 Not applicable

11 **IT Implications**

11.1 None

12 **Property Implications**

12.1 None

13 **Procurement Implications**

13.1 None

14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 None

15 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

15.1 None

16 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

16.1 No

17 **Key Decision**

17.1 No

18 **Key Decision Reference**

18.1 N/A

19 **Background Papers**

19.1 None

20 **Appendices**

20.1 Appendix 1 – Working Party Report
